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Block 7

Rack No.

Shelf No.

Serial No. 1235

General No. 19598

To Thomas Snodgrass Esqr
Resident at Ganjam

Sir,

1 Having lately resumed the duties of my Station which I was obliged to relinquish in September last on account of the ill state of my health, I have now the honor to address you my report upon the Revenue of the Ganjam Havelly for the preceding year, a copy of which together with the accompanying papers I request you will be pleased to transmit to the Board of Revenue.-

2 The Revenue year which is the Subject of this Report opened with the most favorable prospects of a productive Revenue a more extensive cultivation having been carried on than had been known in any former time, but the failure of the periodical Rains in October which are required to fill the Ears of the Paddy defeated the industry of the Renters and Ryots and almost entire failure of the harvest throughout the Havelly.-

3 The disturbances which at the same time prevailed in the district cooperated with the unfavorableness of the Season to diminish the resources of the Renters, and render their situation more hopeless, both by the actual depredations made upon their Villages in consequence, and by the injury which the Consideration of the insecurity of property in

general during these Commotions derived to their credit already sufficiently weakened by the failure of the harvest hence ensued a total inability on the part of the poorer Renters, and extraordinary difficulty to those men who had been remarkably punctual in former years, to make good their Engagements.—

4 Aware that a time of such general Calamity and disorder would be taken advantage of by the Renters in various ways to the detriment of the Revenue, that the dishonest would secrete, and that even the well disposed, both from distress, and that indifference which despair naturally begets would be apt to dissipate and consume the little produce there was, I took the precaution to station trusty peons over the Crops in all the Villages of the poorer Renters to see that no part of the Grain was removed, or disposed of without the knowledge and permission of the public Servants, and I gave my personal attendance as long as my health permitted in the several Purgunnahs in order to enforce the payment of the revenue from such as were able to fulfil their engagements, and to prevent an injudicious Exercise of Rigour on the part of the public Servants towards those who were not, which would have Occasioned a loss of Inhabitants without any advantage, Endeavouring to the utmost of my power to lessen the Evils of these dreadful Calamities both to the Inhabitants and to the Revenue.—

5 The settlements of the Rented Revenue

of the Hamilty this year amounted to Rupees 282,070 exceed in such particulars wherein a comparison might be made that of the preceding fusly which was the last year of the term for which the Country, was rented out by my predecessor the late Mr. Maxwell by Rupees 29,487 as the Villages were let with little variation to the same Renters from whom he in general experienced great punctuality in the payments of their Kists, I have no reason to doubt I should have been equally successful realising it had the Season proved commonly favorable, but under the Accumulated disadvantages which the Collection of the Revenue was subject to this year, no Vigilance, or exertion on the part of the Collector could avail to a satisfactory realization of the Jummabundy of which I am concerned to inform you Rs. 77,895. 10. Annas remained unpaid on the 25 Sept. last; of these balances a list whereof accompanies this report (No. 1) Rupees 6731. 13a. 4p. have been since recovered, and I shall continue to prosecute the collection of them together with the Current Jummabundy as far as may be done without distressing the Renters; not having had sufficient leisure since my return to examine into the Circumstances and Condition of each particular Renter, I must postpone for the present speaking decidedly what part of these balances are, and what are not recoverable, as well as suggesting any remission in their behalf till I shall have informed myself whether they have exercised due

due forbearance towards their Ryots, which circumstance can alone give them a just claim to the like indulgence of our Government. -

6. If these balances shall be found to exceed in proportion those in the Haullies to the Southward as I am not conscious of any neglect in the discharge of my duty, I can account for these circumstances no other way than, by imputing it to the different Systems that obtain in conducting the Revenue here, and in those Countries on which subject I therefore think it necessary to say a few words. -

7. When I received charge of this Haulley I found it nearly all Rented out in small Rents of one and two Villages to one person, and as I entertained the greatest deference for the Judgment of my predecessor, and further observed that the System which he had adopted had stood the best of experiments, the Revenue being both greatly improved and punctually paid, I hesitated not to continue it on reletting the Country, the advantages of these small Rents are that the Villages are let out near to their full value, as the small Renter will be satisfied with a more moderate profit than the great one, the Ryots are more secure from oppression than where large Rents obtain, the great Renters being too prone to abuse the consequence and authority which extensive Rents naturally convey to the

prejudice

prejudice of the Cultivator, and further monopolies of grain, are neither so likely to happen nor so practicable, the small Renter being obliged to sell the produce of the Villages in order to pay his Rent, whereas the great Renter employs his own Resources for that purpose, and retains his Grain till he can get a high profit upon it, whereby the Inhabitants are often greatly distressed; The defect peculiar to this System (for no System is without its imperfections) is that as few of these small Renters are possessed before hand of any considerable Capital, but depend in great measure upon the Crops for the payment of the Revenue, when any very extraordinary failure takes place, a much heavier balance is to be expected, than where the Country is parcelled out as is the case in the Hauellies to the Southward on lower terms among a few Opulent Renters, whose superior Resources, and more considerable profits in Ordinary years enable them to fulfil their Engagements in unfavorable Ones.-

8 The Sunnane Revenue last year consisted of Six Villages in the Itchapour Pergunnah, the salt at Itchapour, and Mootsaw[illegible]cottah, the Sawyer, and Motur[illegible]phoor at Itchapour and at Ganjam, the arrack Bitte, [illegible], and Ganjaye at Ganjam and Sawyer in the rest of the Haveily, the above Villages were situated in the Southern part of the Itchapour Pergunnah. I have the honor to apprize the Board of Revenue

Revenue in June 1791. of my intention to keep them under my own Management with a view to the Recovering them from the ruinous state into which they had fallen in consequence of a very Sickly Season, that had happened a few years ago in that part of the Country, and proved alike fatal to the Inhabitants, and their Cattle, In this expectation however I was disappointed by the extreme unfavorableness of the Season which rendered them equally unproductive with the rest of the Havelly; The Revenue amounting only to Rups. 4942. 10. which is considerably less than they had yielded before I took them under my immediate Charge.-

9 The Season in the latter end of the year 1790. proving drier than usual there was not a sufficiency of water to force open the bar at Itchapoor, and Monsaucottah, and admit the Sea Water to the Salt Pans till the Season for making Salt was far advanced, on which account the quantity of Salt made in the beginning of the year 1791) which forms the Revenue for 1792) was less than Ordinary, but the price of this Article raising Considerably, more than made amends for the Diminution in the quantity, accordingly this branch of the Revenue, which I was also obliged to keep under Aumanee from the want of an adequate offer produced Rupees 5445. 13. 6. which rather exceeds than falls below the amount in common years.-

10. The diminution which had already taken place in the Value of the Copper Currency, and the fear of its falling still lower, added to the distress that prevailed among all ranks of the Inhabitants in Consequence of the famine, both prevented any one from offering for the arrack, Bettle, and Tobacco farms at Ganjam, and operated to reduce their Value when kept under aumani; The former of these farms were likewise subject to a further considerable disadvantage from the dearness of Paddy which is required for the distillery, besides which the Sales of Liquor had for some time before greatly decreased from the Soldiery being debarred from buying it, as they had before done; for these several reasons the Revenue of these Monopolies which used formerly to amount to Rupees 12000. declined last year so low as Rupees 4473. 4. 10.

11. Neither were the land Customs or Moturphaw (which latter in the two principal towns of Ganjam, and Ichapoor forms separate Rents) more productive, the first on account of the suspension of the duties on all necessaries of life, which comprize nearly the whole amount of this branch of the Revenue, the other from the great number of Artificers and Manufacturers that perished in the famine, and the general poverty of those that survived These Sources of Revenue which yielded formerly 11500 Rupees, produced this year no more than Rs. 2427: 4: 3.

As

12 As the receipts of Revenue were from the several reasons above mentioned extraordinarily Contracted last year, so the expences were swelled to an unusual amount, chiefly by the great number of Peons which it was found necessary to maintain for the protection of the Villages from the incursions of Sawaders adherents, the military force in the district not affording, in addition to the service that was at this time carrying on a sufficient number of Troops to cover a frontier extending between 50 or 60 miles from an Enemy rendered both vigilant and daring by hunger and distress. The maintenance of the Poor during the Calamitous period was likewise a further charge upon the Havelly Chest, the remittances from which to the Ganjam Trea=sury in the course of this year from these Combi=ned Causes amounted only to Rupees 1,72,963. 2. .

13. It being Evident from the state of the harvest at the close of the year 1791 that we had the most dreadful consequence to appre=hend from the want of Rice in the ensuing year, unless some measures were taken for supplying the Inhabitants with grain from abroad, I thought it my duty as early as the 17th November in that year to apprize the Board of Revenue of the impending distress with which the Country was threatened, and to solicit that an ample, and speedy supply might be sent from Bengal for the relief of the Inhabitants in the Havelly, as I believe the late Resident might

about

about the same time have done for that of the rest of the district, and the assistance offered in consequence by Government together with the Charities esta-blished with their Sanction in several parts of the Havelly have been the means of preserving the lives of thousands, but the Calamity tho' alleviated, was too extensive and prevalent in its nature to be removed by these precautions and it is with the deepest concern I find by an account lately taken of the loss of population (and which is transmitted No 4 with this report) that 53991 Inhabitants perished by famine in this Havelly in the course of last year a great part of whom being of the poorest Class of Ryots is an irrepa-rable loss to the Cultivation.-

14 I have noticed in a former part of the report, the depredations committed upon the Villages in the Havelly by Invaders Rövers as one of those causes that operated to the prejudice of the Revenue, By the correctest account I have been able to procure the loss which the Renters; and Inhabitants have sustained thereby in money, Gold, and Silver Ornaments, Cattle, Grain and Cloth, amounted to upwards of Rs 20,000.-

15 As the greater part of this loss fell ultimately upon the Renters, who were scarcely less sufferers by the depredations made upon their own property than by those made upon that of their Ryots, whom when stripped of all they were possessed of, and consequently disabled from paying

paying their balances, or subsisting themselves, the Renters were obliged to maintain at an extraordinary Expence in this time of Scarcity, I think it my duty to point out the principal sufferers and to solicit that the following Sums may be sett off against their balances, where balances are due, or remitted in the present years Jummabundy where that is not the case.-

	Rs
Jaggernauth Chowdary Renter of Baruah	1000
Curry Ram das Renter of Narrainpour	500
Lochuna Sawoo Renter of Jayapour	350
Bauspautur Renter of Doubady	1000
Nippany Narsannah Renter of Rayapour	200

16 And as an encouragement to the Inhabitants of the Villages of Pottangy in the Baruah Purgunnah Jaygapour Dobaudy and Rayapoure who have suffered particularly by these hostile incursions I beg leave further to recommend a remission of the Motarfa to the Manufacturers and a small increase in the share to the Ryots for the term of two years and that I may be permitted to make a proportional deduction from the Rents of these Villages as an indemnification to the Renters for the loss they will sustain thereby.-

17 The Manufacturers of the Haveilly I am concerned to observe have experienced equally with the Cultivators the destructive influence of the famine in the loss of the greater number of those hands that used to be Occupied in and, maintained

maintained by carrying them. — this has necessarily produced a decay in its trade which was very visible in the limited exportation that took place last year compared with that of former times. —

18. For heretofore besides home consumption and Inland demands, and a great proportion of the Honble Company's Investment the Country furnished a considerable quantity of various kinds of fine Cloths for exportation, these were partly sent to Bengal, from whence returns were made in Rice which was carried to Madras, and disposed of there on account of the Merchants the rest were freighted directly to Madras, the amount of both being generally paid into the Treasury there for bills upon this Chiefship, and by these means a considerable sum of money was annually gained and preserved to the district which would have otherwise been lost to it. —

19 The Export trade being thus the principal Channel by which the Specie sent out of the district for the payment of its Revenue flows back to it again, or what is precisely the same thing in the End, by serving as a Medium thro' which the Revenue is remitted retains it therein whereby a sufficiency of Specie is preserved for the purposes of Commerce, and Revenue, this decline; in it should be counteracted and remedied by every possible means; or it is to be apprehended that in course of time the Renters will be distressed for money

to pay the Revenue, and trade languish for want of Currency for Common Circulation. -

20. Nothing it is presumed will con=duce more Speedily to the revival of Manufac=tories, and Commerce of the Country than relieving the Weavers from any hardship or discouragement they may be found to be at present subject to and affording them such other reasonable in=dulgence as their situation admits of; and it is there=fore suggested with becoming deference whether the present System of providing the Hon'ble Companys Investment might not admit of some beneficial, and Salutary Regulations with a view to the relief of the manufacturers I believe it is incontrovertible that the price allowed by the Hon'ble Company for their Salampores tho' not doubt strictly equitable when first established, is no longer adequate to the present Value of the Raw Materials, and of the labor of working up these Cloths combined (both these having risen very considerably since that period in consequence of the great Rise in the Rent of the lands, and in the Value of every necessary Article of Life Occa=sioned by that Circumstance) That is, the price no longer has formerly affords a subsistence to the Weavers and his family, who therefore very naturally considers it a hardship to be obliged to work for the Company upon the present terms; Justice and humanity require

therefore that some little increase should be made, in the price of the Cloths providing the particulars here setforth are strictly true as upon a proper examination I have no doubt would be found to be the case. -

21. The augmentation which took place on the Honble Companys Investment in this district last year may be allowed to have been beneficial as long as the famine lasted, and likewise to have been accomplished without discontent to the Weavers who overlooked the inadequacy of the Companys price in Consideration of the greater advantage of receiving a part of their advances in Rice, which at that time could not be procured but from the Company, and which if they had not procured they must have perished; but now that peace and plenty are restored, and there is full employment for the weavers whom the famine has spared the fine Cloth Weavers many of whom were compelled thro necessity to work for the Company last year, have returned, or wish to return to their former pursuit of the finer Manufactures, the Investment however being increased and a great number of the Salampore Weavers as well indeed as of the fine Cloth Weavers) having died, and emigrated during the famine, there are not sufficient left to make up the increased Investment, wherefore the Looms of the fine Cloth Weavers must be pressed into the Salampores Service

to

to their great disadvantage, and discouragement, the making up of Salampores being less profitable than the finer Cloths, and to the diminution of the more Valuable Manufactures of the Handles. upon which it has been shewn how much the prosperity of the district depends. It would therefore appear advisable to discontinue this in=crease in the Investment for two or three years till the emigrants had returned, and the Country otherwise recovered a little from the consequences of the famine, at the expiration of which time it may be hoped if the increase in the price of Salampores be granted, and the weavers left unrestricted in the pursuit of their Occu=pation, that it may then be renewed with=out difficulty or detriment to the Country.

22 As it may be expected that on a point which is so intimately connected with the comfort, and happiness of the Inhabitants as the administration of Justice I should not be altogether silent, I think it necessary to say, that I have ever considered it as the most Sacred duty of my station, and devoted a Suitable proportion of my time, and attention to it, prescribing to myself the following Rules in settling all Complaints that came before me, when the dispute was of a nature that involved matters of Cast, or Customs of the Natives, or if property was the object contested, and the case did not from its extreme Clearness

admit of a Summary decision, and even then, if it was of any magnitude, it has been my invariable practice to submit the determination of it to four Arbitrators freely chosen by the parties themselves, from whom obligations were then taken to abide by the award under a Penalty to Government proportioned to the importance of the Cause - frivolous complaint, and cases of property of trifling Value I have authorized the public Servants in the several Purgunnahs to settle upon the spot their decision Subject nevertheless to a revision, on my visiting the Purgunnahs, which it has been my general practice to do two or three times in the course of the year as well as to superintend the Collection of the Revenue, as to take Cognizance of any Malpractices, or oppressions the public Servants may have been guilty of themselves and observing that the Inhabitants suffered considerable inconvenience by resorting to me in the first instance with their Complaints, because they were obliged to remain afterwards at Mousaucottah at their own Expence till the Peshcar upon information transmitted him for that purpose could Summon the defendant, and Witnesses on both sides, and send them to the place of my Residence, I considered, that it would tend both to the more speedy execution of Justice, as well as to the benefit of the Inhabitants to discourage, as I have uniformly

done

one, their leaving their Pergunnahs (except the Complaint was against the Peshcar himself) till they had first made known their grievances to the Peshcar, in order that all concerned, or that could afford Testimony in the cause might be assembled by him, and sent at once to Mou=sourcottah, by which means the matter might at the same time be heard, and determined, and the party aggrieved receive redress without delay.-

23. Before I conclude this report it may be proper to mention as an Occurrence that took place last year, tho it has a more immediate relation to the Revenue of the present, that finding many of the Renters to be entirely ruined by the failure of the Crops, and Consequently incapable of managing their Villages any longer I was under a necessity to resume a Considerable Number of them about the month of May last at which time of the year it is necessary to take measures for the ensuing years Revenue.-

24. If I have been in possession of a sufficiency of seed Grain for the Cultivation of these as well as for the demands of the rest of the Arnally I should have preferred keeping them under Aumanie for the present year, that mode of Conducting the Revenue though the least advantageous to Government, being the

the most favorable to the Inhabitants, who from their recent sufferings stood in need of every indulgence that could be afforded them, but having been unable to procure the quantity which I had applied for permission to lay up (viz 20,000 Rupees) on account of an unexpected fall of Rain which wetted a good deal of it while it was preparing and rendered it unfit for the purpose of Cultivation and being afterwards obliged to divide what I had procured among a much greater number of Villages than I had calculated upon when I applied for the quantity above mentioned no alternative remained but to endeavour to rent as many of them as possible to responsible people.-

25 The Renters I found however were so much dispirited with recent losses, and the prospect of future difficulties from the want of hands to carry on the Cultivation should they engage for these Villages, that it was as much as I could do to prevail upon two or three of the principal ones to rent a few of them for the term of four years (which completes the period for which I had permission to settle the Haveley) at an abated Rent the first, and second years, but rising the two succeeding, till it approached Mr. Maxwells Jummabundy, which considering all circumstances, appeared to me to be no inadequate conditions; a statement of these alte=rations

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=rations in the Commissionery as originally settled begun in 1791 - shewing the total reduction in the Revenue in consequence accompany this address. (No. 3.)

26 I believe no one could have been actuated with a truer Zeal, nor have labored with greater deligence to promote the Interests of the Charge entrusted to him than myself from the moment I succeeded to the management of this Stewardship, If my Endeavours have not been crowned with success, and instead of Communicating the improvement of the Revenue as I hoped I should have been able to do, I have been =der the mortifying necessity of announcing the decline of nearly every branch of it, I trust this will appear from the foregoing Report to have proceeded not from any Neglect or inattention on my part, but from Causes, and Accidents which no care, nor Circumspec=tion could prevent, or provide against; From this decline It must now be my object to reco=ver it as speedily as possible, and to this arduous task I shall apply myself deligently, and Chearfully. - I have the honor to be;

Sir Your most Obedient Servant

Monsoircottah Signed Math W Webb

12 April 1793 A true copy Thomas Snodgrass Collr.

Ad.

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